

4. Cape May Convention Hall

Get your family into the holiday spirit with the City of Cape May's Annual Holiday Concert and Reception on Saturday, December 13th at 7 PM inside Cape May Convention Hall. This FREE holiday reception will present dueling pianos by The Philly Keys starring Steve and Jennie. Bringing you all the fun and good vibes of the dueling piano mentality such as song requests, sing-alongs, crowd participation, and great musicianship, this new concept is revolutionizing weddings, corporate events and private parties. Light refreshments will be served.

5. The Cedar House (2018)

The Cedar House, 1035 Washington Street was built in 2018 to fit the historical feel of Cape May. The 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home is our year-round residence and is festively decorated for the holidays, including the screened in porch and back deck. A 30-year collection of Byers Choice Carolers greet you at the entrance. Additionally, throughout the year you will find our porch seasonally decorated. The Bremer Family welcomes you to our home.

6. The Emlen Physick Estate & Carriage House (1879 & 1876)

Restored by Cape May MAC, the Physick House is Cape May's only Victorian house museum. It was designed by renowned architect Frank Furness in the Stick style, a simple but radically different style from the rest of Cape May's architecture. The Physick House Museum is decorated in historically accurate fashion for the season. The Carriage House was the first building erected on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate. The original inhabitants, horses and carriages, have been replaced by the Carroll Gallery, Museum Shop and Vintage BYOB. On display in the Gallery is "An Old-Fashioned Christmas," an exhibit featuring an extensive Dept. 56 Dickens Village collection and trains beneath our giant tree.

7. The Firefighter's Hall History Museum (1875)

The Cape May Fire Department was incorporated in 1875. Decked-out for the holidays, the department's Firefighters' Hall History Museum documents some of Cape May's most famous fires and features fascinating historic fire equipment on display, including a fully restored 1928 American LaFrance engine, and more.

8. The Highland House (1855)

A circa 1855 Farmhouse style Pet Friendly Bed and Breakfast. Our 4-legged residents include Max, Cherry our two feline family members and Toffee our energetic pup.

9. The John F. Craig House (1866)

This gothic revival house was the first house built on Columbia Avenue. This former bed and breakfast inn, turned private home, is now a vacation rental. With soaring ceilings, elegant antiques, gracious porches and patios, the John F. Craig House offers a true taste of Victorian Cape May. The house is beautifully decorated for the holidays, and be sure to check out the brand-new kitchen renovation!

10. The J. Stratton Ware House (1868)

Built around 1868, it exemplifies late 19th century frame architecture, typical of the area's resort homes for wealthy Philadelphians after the Civil War. The house features ornate scroll-sawn gingerbread details, including carved bargeboards and infilled king-post trusses in the gables, pierced wood panels, and saw-toothed accents, which suggest the high level of the best work of Cape May's carpenter builders. It was constructed by J. Stratton Ware, a prominent local builder and partner in the Ware Eldredge contracting firm, known for contributing to Cape May's architectural legacy – one of the largest collections of preserved late 19th-century wood buildings in the United States.

11. The Macedonia Baptist Church (1909)

On Dec. 23, 1895, Macedonia Baptist Church of Cape May was established as a congregation for Black Baptists living in the city of Cape May. The church was built in 1909 at the corner of Lafayette & Franklin streets to serve a thriving African American community that lasted through the 20th century. Its adjoining parsonage is one of Cape May's oldest Victorian houses that once belonged to a Philadelphia wallpaper merchant, George Howell. The church sold property to the city in the 1920s to establish the Franklin Street School for Black children. Ministers serving the church lived in the adjoining parsonage until 2018 when the church partnered with a foundation to establish the Harriet Tubman Museum of NJ. Today, the active, interracial, multi-generational congregation

continues and is famous for its public Sunday morning breakfasts. Macedonia is the last active African American church congregation on the island.

12. The Mainstay Inn (1872)

Built as a gentlemen's gambling club, the Mainstay is considered to have one of Cape May's most authentically restored interiors. It features 14-foot ceilings, all original chandeliers, and richly ornamented furniture that was custom made for the clubhouse. For the holidays, the Inn is decorated with traditional garnish including yards of garland, wreaths and lights and Christmas trees throughout.

13. The Mason Cottage (1871)

Entrepreneur Edward A. Warne bought this property in 1870 from Cape May developer John C. Bullit. Its striking Mansard roof has been restored to look as it did when newly built. The spirit of the holiday season is abundant throughout the Mason Cottage...from the majestic 10-foot botanical Christmas tree to fragrant evergreen garlands laced with delicate ribbons - The Mason Cottage has captured many of the Victorian traditions to share and celebrate with visitors during this holiday season.

14. Our Lady Star of the Sea (1911)

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church was built in 1911 and is an example of the Romanesque Revival style, with round arches over the windows and entry ways. The marble used in the sanctuary and altar came from the same quarries in Carrara, Italy that were the source of marble used by Michelangelo. It has 46 narrative stained-glass windows. The first Mass was celebrated in the church in 1913.

15. The Queen Victoria (1881)

The Queen Victoria was built as a private residence by Douglas Gregory, a pilot on the Delaware River and Bay. Restored for its centennial, it has been lovingly maintained by just three owners since that time. Featured in the parlor bay window is a floor-to-ceiling Christmas tree authentically decorated with a variety of ornaments and decorations used during the 1890s.

16. The Wilbraham Mansion (1840)

Built in 1840 by Judith Hughes as a farmhouse, it was purchased by Philadelphia industrialist John Wilbraham in 1900 and converted into a high Victorian style mansion. The crystal chandelier was a gift to Wilbraham. Many original Wilbraham furnishings remain. Doug Carnes, the owner, has decorated the mansion with collections of Santas, Angels and Nutcrackers.

17. 721 Franklin (1880)

The candlelight ambiance of this Italianate home aptly reflects the four long years of restoration and renovation that ended in 2016. The home, originally owned by Augustus J. Albert (third wealthiest man in Baltimore, MD) was built solely for his servants. During the holidays, the house is transformed into the magic of a Victorian Christmas complete with elaborate mantle and drape decorations, a blazing fire, and a dining room table set in Victorian fashion complete with English Christmas crackers.

18. 729 Franklin St. (1880)

729 Franklin Street, unit 3 in Cape May is a striking Gothic-Revival church building complete with a steeple, pointed-arch windows and an impressive stained-glass window that has been sensitively converted into multiple condominium residences. Built in the late 19th century (records list construction around 1879–1880), the former Franklin Street Church retains many ecclesiastical features: soaring vaulted rooms, tracery windows and exposed truss work that give the interior dramatic volume and light. The renovation and conversion into luxury condos was prominent locally one unit served as the 2006 Cape May Designer Showcase. This unit features a stained glass window from the former Christian Admiral Hotel in Cape May, hanging in the kitchen.

CAPE MAY MAC's 52ND ANNUAL



DECEMBER 13, 2025 | 5:30PM - 8:30PM

PROPERTIES CAN BE VISITED IN ANY ORDER

1. Angel of the Sea (1850)

This grand Victorian mansion was originally located on Franklin Street. It was split into two homes and moved to the corner of Ocean St. and Beach Ave. in 1881. It was moved again in 1963 to its present location. Come and visit the beautiful, historic Angel decorated in her Christmas finery. Select guest rooms will be open for you to view.

2. The Bedford Inn (1883)

In 1870, Joseph French, a wealthy Philadelphia stockbroker, purchased 801 Stockton Ave. and later built the double home at 805–807 Stockton Ave. (now the Bedford Inn) for his children's families. Known then as a "Mother-Daughter" house, it remained in the Page family until 1921, when Annie Page sold both sides to unrelated buyers. In 1966, two Indiana couples, the Fords and Bedworths, bought and converted the building into a summer rental, naming it the Bedford Inn. After one season, the Bedworths left, and the Fords managed it until 1975, when they sold it to the Schmucker family, who began extensive restorations. For nearly 30 years, Cindy Schmucker ran it as a Victorian bed and breakfast. In 2005, Archie Kirk bought and updated the property, followed by new owners Paula Murray, Marc Jacoby, and Roxanne Went in 2019. The Bedford Inn continues to evolve while preserving its historic charm, offering guests a comfortable and welcoming stay. The Bedford Inn in Cape May is now part of The Queen Victoria Bed & Breakfast family. This merger represents an exciting new chapter for both properties, combining the charm and elegance you've come to love with the exceptional service and amenities for which The Queen Victoria is renowned.

3. The Cape Island Baptist Church (1916 & 1937)

The Cape Island Baptist Church sits on what was once the lawn of the Stockton Hotel. The congregation, which has celebrated its 150th anniversary, first built the Spanish Mission style Bible School, and then, in 1937, added the Church and campanile along Columbia Avenue. A pamphlet, detailing the interesting history of the congregation will be available as you enter the sanctuary, beautifully decorated with a manger and lit by soft candlelight. Enjoy the warmth of the holiday season in the second-floor fellowship hall.

MORE PROPERTIES ON BACK

Important Visitor Information

If at any time you have a question, please see a member of our staff stationed on the shuttles, at the hospitality centers, at the Mall Information Booth or at the Physick Estate. Our staff will be wearing Cape May MAC name badges.

TOUR ETIQUETTE

Please do not handle decorative objects at the properties on tour and do not videotape or photograph without permission. Please refrain from taking food or drink into the houses and shuttles. No alcohol.

WHERE DO I START AND WHERE DO I GO?

Read the description of each house, inn, guest house or church and decide which interest you most. Avoid visiting the houses in numerical order; be flexible in your choices. Participating houses display a sign.

WHAT WILL I SEE?

Each home or inn will open public rooms to visitors. In some cases, additional rooms will be accessible as well. Homeowners, Cape May MAC staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions.

HOW DO I GET AROUND?

This self-guided walking tour is centered in a 3/4-square-mile area of the Historic District. As in 2024, an express shuttle will operate between the Physick Estate and the one or two farthest points. Most properties are clustered within a 20-minute walk in the Historic District with some just a few minutes from each other, and that makes walking the most efficient way to see the most properties with the least time spent waiting. Most manage to see about half the total properties on tour that evening.

WHAT ABOUT AMENITIES?

Hospitality Centers provide free hot beverages and tasty goodies during the tour. Public restrooms are available at the Hospitality Centers.



Museums. Arts. Culture.

